

Child Welfare League of America

130 East Twenty-second Street, New York City

BULLETIN

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Socrates said —

"In every work the beginning is the most important, especially in dealing with anything young and tender."

ECHOES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Education and Training

Following the discussions of previous years and the recommendation of the Executive Director that this matter be seriously considered, the following was adopted:

(1) That the traveling teacher method of training be approved and if possible at least two traveling teachers be provided.

(2) With reference to the establishment of apprentice training centers, that a study be made of the number of possible candidates, types of persons that can be recruited from different geographical areas, the present lack of opportunities for training and the probable adjustment which such trainees will make to child welfare work after their period of training.

(3) That the staff of the League enter into a conference with schools of social work and high grade agencies in the neighborhoods of these schools to find out the possibilities of organizing training centers, to outline possible courses and estimate annual cost.

Standards of Membership

It was voted that the questionnaire (see "League Members Describe Their Own Work") be followed up by correspondence indicating points needing improvement as shown by each questionnaire, and that another be addressed to the same group in 1927.

Following the returns on the second questionnaire and based on other contacts with the League and other member agencies, it was recommended that a classification of the member agencies be made. This classification if possible should be made on a numerical rating and a further report presented at the March meeting.

It was also voted that the questionnaires give suggestions of increased service to members of the League in preference to service to organizations out of the League, and that subjects raised by the replies should become topics at regional conferences.

Admission to Membership

It was voted to approve the transfer of membership from the Kansas Children's Home Society, already a member, to the newly combined Kansas Children's Home and Service League.

Publication and Research

The committee reported that the financial and population schedules will be completed promptly and placed in the hands of agencies and institutions for possible use beginning with January, 1927.

After a sufficient group of members have adopted these schedules it was voted to accept the offer of the Russell Sage Foundation to compile the comparative statistics of monthly service from such member agencies as care to report. The committee recommended the preparation of a report of the League's history and service for the last five years.

The publication of additional case records was authorized and it was voted to take the first steps toward a definite research program by securing co-operation of a small group of agencies able to submit material.

Regional Conferences

Seven regional conferences will be held during the next year, in Philadelphia in early January, in Chicago in February, in Dallas in February, and in Boston, St. Louis, and Richmond in April.

The possibility of an institute in connection with each conference was voted for consideration.

Standing Committees

The President announced the following Committee chairmen:

Education and Training—Henry W. Thurston.
Standards of Membership—Albert H. Stoneman.
Admission to Membership—Alfred F. Whitman.
Publicity and Research—Miss Georgia G. Ralph.
Institutional Care of Children—Miss Elsa Ueland.
Regional Conferences—Leon W. Frost.

Finance Committee

An increase in the budget of \$5,000 was voted, making the total amount \$68,580, apportioned as follows:

Salaries	\$45,630
Office Expense	2,500
Educational Work	2,550
Travel and Maintenance	15,700
Publicity and Finance	2,200
	<u>\$68,580</u>

To meet this sum in part, the League expects the following:

ESTIMATED INCOME	
For Services Rendered	\$15,000
For Sale of Publications	1,000
For Membership Dues	3,580
	<u>\$19,580</u>

The President urged all who have not yet paid their pledges for 1926 to do so as early as possible that the League may be able to finish the year meeting all obligations.

Institutional Care of Children

In reviewing the work of the Department of Institutional Care this Committee emphasized the importance of the two principal objectives towards which the League has directed its efforts in behalf of institutions. The first of these objectives is *better case work*; the second is *better personnel*.

To promote and secure better case work for institutions, there have been case by case studies of institution children. In various ways the League has secured clearer recognition of the need for case work training as a part of the equipment of the Executive of a children's institution.

The work for better personnel has consisted largely of participation in training courses for cottage mothers as such courses have developed in connection with institutions in North Carolina and South Carolina and under the auspices of the Community Council in St. Louis.

In its effort to promote both of the above objectives the Department of Institutional Care has co-operated with the National Training School for Institution Executives and Other Workers at Dobbs Ferry, N. Y., and with other organizations that are interested in institution personnel problems.

League Members Describe Their Own Work

(From the Executive Director's Annual Report to the Executive Committee)

"As the result of the Executive Committee's request a Questionnaire was sent out in the late summer to the 90 members in Classes A and C for the purpose of gathering statistics preliminary to the application of the standards of membership which are to go into effect January 1, 1927. Seventy-three replies were received, from sixty-nine of which some of the facts become comparable and, we believe, valuable. Seventeen did not respond, among them a few of our oldest members.

"It has been impossible to make a full analysis of the facts presented but a brief summary has been made. The statistics are at this time suggestive and illustrative rather than entirely accurate.

"From the replies to the first question which requested the number of children in care on September 1, 1926, it appears that the sixty-nine agencies, public and private, had in care on that date 1,580 children in institutions and receiving homes, 19,897 in free homes, 9,788 in boarding homes and 5,500 cared for in other ways. Still others cared for in other ways specified bring the total on this date to 38,605. On a liberal interpretation of facts presented regarding staff and staff duties, there were apparently an equivalent of 541 full time visitors looking after these children, an average of 72 per visitor. This average figure, however, is of little value since at one end of the scale we find $2\frac{1}{6}$ for 2,292, while at the other extreme, we find 5 for 115, and 30 for 1,560.

"Volume of work for the last fiscal year brought replies that could be used from only 63 organizations. Some of the large agencies which reported their populations on September 1st evidently could not give an accurate count of the total number of children cared for during the year. Omitting all duplicates, the net total reported by the 63 whose replies could be used was 48,166, and the total number served in all ways was 68,532. This figure would probably have been increased to 80,000 by the missing reports.

"The figures now available from about 70 of our child placing members are able to give a cross section of the status of the best grade of children's work in the United States. There are probably few agencies that are well equipped for service that are not members of the League. Several questions that force themselves to the front on the basis of these figures are

- "(1) Can agencies having $2\frac{1}{6}$ visitors for 2,292 children care for their children?
- "(2) How can the League best help them?
- "(3) Is it more of an incentive to good work to have poorly equipped agencies in the League or to have them outside working perhaps to become eligible?

"The problem of improvement in service is in part also one of obtaining adequate preparation and training for one's staff. The data regarding training and education and salaries, it seems to me, is not by any means the least valuable, now for the first time available from the children's field. It will be of value to learn what the salary and training standards of our group are. There are in almost all parts of this country, children's agencies that take on to their staffs wholly untrained persons in child care. If they have perchance had some social service training, it is fortunate. Many times no such person is available for the schools are not providing enough persons with any training, not to mention case work and particularly children's work. There are not more than six schools providing any special preparation for children's work. The total number trained is small.

"This subject had our consideration at the last meeting of the Executive Committee. The situation is equally if not more acute and I hope some policy may be determined upon before our meeting adjourns." (See report of the Executive Committee meeting.)

THE HOME REFLEX IN THE FOSTER CHILD

ALBERTA S. GUIBORD, M.D.

Psychiatrist, Boston State Hospital (School Clinics), formerly with
The Church Home Society

*"All things come home at eventide
Like birds that weary of their roaming."*

So ingrained and so universal is the home impulse in human beings that it is scarcely even noticed until something blocks its expression. Going home has become virtually an unconscious and an automatic reaction.

It would be interesting to speculate on the origin of the home impulse in human beings, but not profitable at the moment. Whether we regard the impulse to go home as a biological remnant left over from the time when a hole, a lair, a nest was necessary for the preservation of life or as a highly socialized device contributing to the onward progress of the race; whether we think of it as a mere outward projection of a mental image invested with a strong emotional accompaniment, a kind of Home Sweet Home complex, as a simple motor habit or as a complicated blend of various psychological, biological and sociological factors does not greatly matter for our present purpose of considering the influence of the home reflex on the child who has been deprived of his home.

What does matter is that when we are dealing with such children we should never lose sight of the deep-rooted hold that this home impulse has on every human individual. It has a double hold in fact for, to make use of the parlance of psychology, the home reaction is both an unconditioned and a conditioned reflex. From countless numbers of forebears we have inherited a general tendency to turn to a familiar dwelling-place. As a result of our own repeated acts from earliest memory and before, we have taken on a tendency to turn to a particular home. Because associated with our earliest and most personal experiences, our home has become identified with and actually a part of ourselves.

For something clear and definite as to the nature of and the compelling force of the home reflex, I turn to a higher authority than myself. I quote from Professor William H. Burnham's book, *THE NORMAL MIND*, pp. 107-108:

"In order to test their significance (conditioned or habitual associations) and get some idea of their influence, it is necessary for the individual to be placed in a new environment and subject to different stimuli. To take an extreme case, suppose an individual is placed in such a different environment that nearly all the stimuli (things heard, seen, felt, etc.), are new and unfamiliar. What will be the effect? It is likely to be one of two things according to the training and experience of the individual. For those who have had limited training

and experience and have relatively few complexes of mental associations, what we call interests, the result is likely to be extreme homesickness. The feeling of familiarity and at-homeness that comes from orientation to familiar stimuli, is lacking; and without the customary conditioned reflexes one has that general sense of strangeness and emptiness from lack of habitual associations, that relatively unique experience which is recognized everywhere by the term homesickness."

"The significance of such changes for the health of the individual has often been shown in case of both animals and children. Homesickness in human experience is not infrequently a condition that seriously menaces the physical as well as the mental health."

The author might well have added, "and also the social conduct," and I think we may assume he has included that item in the phrase "mental health."

Everyone who has anything to do with the placing of dependent children in foster homes or in institutions ought to read and ponder well the foregoing citation from Professor Burnham's book. It seems almost to have been written with special thought for children who have been removed from their own and placed in substitute homes. Now whether we are disposed to consider the effects due to a thwarting of the emotion of love or to an interruption of association pathways in the brain, it does not alter the fact that we are dealing with an unhappy, unsatisfied child.

There is little doubt, I suppose, that the emotional effect of this transplantation is always in a general way sensed by the agency which takes such children under its care, but the tendency is to regard it either in too sentimental or in too matter-of-fact a light; to think either: "Here is a poor suffering child; we must make him very happy so he will forget his troubles" or "Just see what we have rescued him from, such a home, he ought to be very grateful to us."

Now if what I term the home-reflex has as it seems to have, a large measure of psycho-physiological mechanism and characteristic then we would seem to have something quite definite and tangible to go by. We do not need to be either sentimental or hard. We do not need to wonder whether this repressed, silent child, this restless runaway, or this babbling opinionated youth is thrown out of balance by losing his home. The question need only be as to the degree and the persistence of the disturbance and the way it is showing outwardly. All this, of course, differs in different personalities. Fortunately, it is much less pronounced in some than in others.

The point to be stressed is that the home-reflex is always potentially disturbed in these children and should be taken into account, interpreted and dealt with just as definitely as the physical, the educational or any other well-recognized need. The home-reflex is so

THE CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

President—MISS NEVA R. DEARDORFF, Philadelphia
Vice-President—ALBERT H. STONEMAN, Detroit
Secretary—MISS GEORGIA G. RALPH, New York
Treasurer—ALFRED F. WHITMAN, 24 Mt. Vernon St., Boston, Mass.
Executive Director—C. C. CARSTENS, New York

tied up with the emotional life; the emotional life so influences the physical health, the learning ability, the every day behavior, that we are not likely to make much headway with these practical concerns unless the emotions are relatively free and untroubled.

Children who come into agency care are largely from the medium range of intelligence and relatively poor social background. These are precisely the ones mentioned by Professor Burnham as most susceptible to homesickness. They have limited training and experience (of the better sort) and meager interests. They are keen enough to contrast their lot with that of more favored children, do not comprehend clearly the reasons for being removed from their own homes and have not the compensation of easy success in their undertakings that invites praise and vastly aids internal comfort.

The child of superior intelligence is more apt to have resources within himself that help to offset emotional suffering. Easy success in school and social relationships contribute to his self-esteem and self-contentment. The child of really inferior intelligence has, usually, less acute sensibilities, perhaps less vivid memory pictures and is more easily appeased by bodily comforts.

Without further attempt to identify the characteristics of the home-reflex with those of the conditioned and unconditioned reflex, I will try to see certain applications that will be of practical use in the placement of children in foster homes. Obviously the one of first importance is to secure an "at-home" feeling. As has been said, the home reaction, ordinarily, is an unconscious and automatic reaction, especially in young persons.

The placed-out child after five or six years of age is very conscious of his *new* home. The old home has a strong pull even though there may have been painful experiences and the child may have run away from it. The sooner he is made unconscious of the new home the quicker his readjustment to life. When his interests become identified with it the feeling of strangeness drops off and his attention is freed for normal activities. How to secure this at-homeness is, of course, the key to the problem. It constitutes one of the items in what is designated "the technique" of social service, and in this connection a very good word because it implies something concrete that can be mastered by attention, effort and practice.

The various steps that must be taken and avoided cannot be gone over in a paper of this length. Any reader will at once recognize certain constructive items, such as selecting the foster home with due regard to the intellectual endowment and the personality of the subject to be placed, with regard to permanence of stay, etc. He will also recognize that there must be performed the rather difficult task of conveying to the foster mother an understanding of the foster child's particular psychological problem and of creating the right attitude towards it. He will see that the proper development of self-esteem, through suitable self-expression in work, social activity, etc., must be attended to.

The reader will also see at once that certain other items need to be definitely avoided, such as over-stressing the dependency and the gratitude themes. No child or young person is ever "grateful" for a home unless he is morbid and abnormal. To him a home is as much an inherited right as air or sunshine or the ground on which he walks. Using the agency as a means of discipline—"I will report you to the society and have them take you away"—does not contribute to an at-home feeling or to security. The dubbing of "State child" by teachers and neighbors makes for self-consciousness and discomfort. Of course, it is neither possible nor necessary to shield a foster child against all reminders of his dependency and difference. If the home impulse is reasonably satisfied he will disregard outside dissatisfaction.

Other items press for consideration but must be passed over. If the general purport of what has been said is kept well in mind, and one's own childhood experience honestly searched and analyzed for the influences that contributed to and detracted from one's own at-homeness, there ought to be no particular difficulty in knowing what we are working for. To integrate and energize the child's personality is the chief objective. If the primitive home longing is unsatisfied an undercurrent of insecurity and restlessness persists that tends to center his attention in himself and consequently to reduce initiative and the outflowing of his best intellectual effort.

THE LEGION TAKES ANOTHER STEP

At the National Convention of the American Legion in Philadelphia substantial progress continued in the direction of increasing the case work service and strengthening the case work point of view of the Legion. The reports of the Acting Director of the Child Welfare Division, Miss Emma C. Puschner, and of Mr. Mark T. McKee, Chairman of the National Child Welfare Committee, formed the basis of the report with

resolutions which was adopted by the Convention, after four days of committee work by the Convention Child Welfare Committee under the Chairmanship of Senator Sherman Child of Minneapolis.

Among the important decisions taken are the following: That the director trained in social service and such trained regional field secretaries be maintained as are necessary to guide, instruct, encourage, and assist state departments in fulfilling our pledge.

That a State legislative program be formulated by each department with the assistance of the National Child Welfare Division for the purpose of fulfilling our pledge.

That the use of existing billets be limited to that of clearing houses to temporarily care for such children as cannot be cared for in their own or foster homes until permanent homes may be provided, all as directed in the resolution adopted at St. Paul in 1924.

That the further extension of billets or the increase of present cost of maintenance of billets be arrested.

That the National Child Welfare Committee be hereby directed to prepare plans for the ultimate disposition of billets at the time when their further maintenance shall be deemed inadvisable.

That the United States Veterans' Bureau be requested to include in its Field Service the locating, visiting and follow-up of the Minor Wards of the Veterans' Bureau, said Minor Wards to be visited not less often than once every three months, and that National Legislative Committee be directed to further this resolution.

The field work staff of the National office of the Child Welfare Division has recently been strengthened by the appointment of Miss Mary C. McLeod, formerly with the Georgia Department of Public Welfare and more recently with the Boston Children's Aid Association, to be Regional Service Officer in the West with headquarters at Denver.

COMMON SENSE IN MOUTH HYGIENE

WILLIAM M. GARDNER, in "*Hygeia*," October, 1926

(This completes an article which appeared in the October Bulletin.)

"Most toothbrushes on the market are too large for efficient brushing. The use of a small, fairly stiff bristled brush is logical and advisable. The working end should be about seven rows of bristles long (about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches) and two or three rows of bristles wide. The bristles should be of uneven lengths and the groups of bristles wide apart. The handle should be fairly heavy and at least six inches long. The length of the handle is important in the method of brushing described in the last issue. It must insure sufficient grasp to apply and to maintain considerable pressure.

The elongated tuft found at the end of some brushes does not work as efficiently as is theoretically supposed. Such a brush adapts itself poorly to brushing the teeth on the inside and does not permit proper stimulating of the gum tissue toward the tongue. The long bristles in the tuft, after they are wet, have a tendency to buckle or bend and to slide over instead of penetrating.

The brush should always be rinsed well, all the water possible shaken out of it and if it is more convenient to keep it in a glass tumbler, the bristled end should be kept out of the glass. The brush should not be kept in a toothbrush container. It prevents drying, destroys the bristles and encourages bacterial growth.

A brush should be allowed to dry for twenty-four hours after using, so that the bristles will regain their original and necessary stiffness. Every person should therefore be equipped with a pair of brushes, one for morning brushing and one for evening brushing. Supplementary brushes should be used if teeth are also brushed after meals.

A dentifrice is a mechanical aid in cleaning teeth, not a therapeutic agent for diseased gum tissue. It is, under no circumstances, a cure or even a preventive of pyorrhea. The medicines and drugs incorporated in many of the popular and widely advertised dentifrices are valueless and only afford the manufacturers selling talks to get their product before the public.

The dentifrice really plays a minor rôle in mouth hygiene. Even as a cleansing agent it depends entirely on the efficiency of the brush that applies it. No surface of the tooth can be cleaned unless it is actually touched by the brush. The dentifrice has in itself no chemical or magic power to clean.

All types of toothpicks should be avoided. They irritate and lacerate the gum tissue, lowering its resistance to infection. Wooden toothpicks used over a long period of time will wear grooves in teeth.

When contact points are faulty so that food cannot be dislodged from between the teeth with a brush, dental floss may be used. Incorrect use of a dental floss is harmful to the gums. It must be passed gently through the contact points so that it will not snap down on the gum tissue and lacerate it. Usually a slight back and forth movement will help to ease it by the contact point. If bleeding results from the use of floss, it is being used incorrectly."

A NEW COURSE AT DOBBS FERRY

Several extensions have been made in the curriculum of the National Training School for Institution Executives and Other Workers, according to the announcement of courses for 1926-1927. As this is only the

second year of the School's existence, it was to be expected that there would be adaptations and improvements of last year's curriculum.

Mr. Calvin Derrick, Dean of the school, will conduct courses on Institutional Child Care and Social Economics, and with the assistance of a group of well known lecturers, including Hastings H. Hart, Mrs. Martha P. Falconer, Miss Ruth Taylor and Dr. E. R. Johnstone, will present a course on Administration. A course of fifteen lectures on the Theory and Practice of Modern Social Work will be presented by someone from the faculty of the New York School of Social Work. The subject of Non-Institutional Child Care will be covered in a series of ten lectures by a representative of the Westchester County Department of Child Welfare.

Three classes of students will be received,—those wishing to take the ten-week course for cottage workers; those entering the one year course in preparation for the work of supervisors and sub-executive positions; and those wishing to prepare for executive positions who will enroll in the advanced course.

"For students in Groups II and III who have not already had the equivalent of case work experience, arrangements will be made (as soon as funds are available) for at least three points of credit (90 hours) in supervised case work experience, with one or more agencies dealing with problems of children and the members of their own families."

Extension courses will also be offered in Educational Psychology and the Education and Training of Wards of Institutions. Some member of the staff of the Child Welfare League of America will assist Mr. Derrick in his course on Social Economics. Co-operative arrangements will permit students to observe the work of other well known institutions for children, although most of the observation and practice in institution management will be provided for at the Children's Village.

An appropriation to the School from the Laura Spelman-Rockefeller Memorial and the support of a psychiatric clinic at the Children's Village through an appropriation from the Commonwealth Fund assure the development of a high grade program of child care at the Children's Village and the satisfactory maintenance of the Training School during its early years of development.

Announcements of courses and other information may be secured by addressing the Training School at the Children's Village, Dobbs Ferry, New York.

HOW TO TREAT THE UNMARRIED MOTHER

Findings of a staff meeting of the Children's Bureau of Philadelphia on methods for treating certain problems of unmarried mothers

Our relationship with unmarried mothers, and for that matter with all of our clients, should be on a more

professional basis. We should cease referring to clients by their first names unless they are children, or unless we are prepared to have them call us by our first names as evidence of a very close friendship.

The relationship between the foster parents and the children should be expressed on an aunt and uncle basis rather than mother and father basis. In rare instances should the child be taught to call the foster parents "Mother" and "Daddy." Two mothers in the child's life tend to the creation of confusions at a time when the effects are likely to be most serious.

The general practice should be the use of "Mrs." by the child's mother if she is going to keep her child and where we have the opportunity to advise her, we should urge that the announced name of the child's father be made to coincide with that of the mother. This will prevent embarrassing questions being asked when school and work certificates are examined, and it is found that the names of the parents are different.

Within the first two or three years after entering upon each unmarried mother situation we should outline to the mother and to the other parties in interest the probable developments during the rest of the child's period of care. It was agreed that it would be better to have a mother refuse all cooperation in any of the plans proposed to her and to insist on an immediate and complete surrender of her child than to permit her to walk into a situation for which she has not been prepared and the full import of which she does not comprehend until after lapse of years. In so many instances she then reveals an attitude of mind, the fixity of which could have been at least surmised in the early contacts with her.

On the other hand, we have the situation where the incompetence or unsuitability of the mother seems to stand out with great clearness at the end of a long period of care, but the defects were equally evident to a person of discernment at the beginning of her treatment. It is at least a doubtful practice to fail to state, or to understate, certain probabilities in this or that plan. In one case the failure of an agency to weigh the opposition of the mother's family and to insist that she keep her child, made suicide for her the one escape that she could think of. A post-treatment study revealed that nothing short of death on the part of the mother's father would remove or abate his cruel and ceaselessly sinister influence in her life. The agency failed to make a good pre-treatment study and over-stressed the emotional factors, thus giving a wholly bad combination.

In the great majority of cases as little information as possible should be imparted to the foster family concerning the mother's story. The detailed filling-in should come from the mother herself. Having once established a friendly contact with the foster family,

she is much more likely to arouse sympathy on their part if she tells her story than if we tell it in considerable detail before they really know her. The exceptions cover mothers who present possible question as to mentality, or where extreme immaturity makes the full and sympathetic interpretation by the social worker absolutely necessary if the foster family is to be of service. There is too much of the mechanical and impersonal in our work with unmarried mothers. They are not stuffed dolls.

Generally the foster parents at the start need not know more than the outline of the central difficulty, plus name, age, physical condition, and a brief index to the mother's social situation. The chief aim is to make clear that here is a person in trouble. When the sympathies have been aroused, the story, if the mother wishes to tell it, may then be told. If not, then it remains to all but her most immediate advisers one of the secrets of her life.

Further qualification may be made to include certain other mothers who are completely competent to handle their affairs after the first fright and depression. In these instances it is not necessary for the agency to give any information as to the real story to the foster family.

It is important in each instance that the mother tell her child the exact situation as to its paternity. Far fewer difficulties are likely to arise when this is done than where the reverse holds true and the unprepared child breaks in upon the real knowledge of its birth.

THE REVOLT OF MODERN YOUTH, by Judge Ben B. Lindsey and Wainwright Evans—Published by Boni and Liveright, 1925. (Reviewed by a parent.)

Judge Lindsey and Mr. Evans have written a much-needed book—one telling the truth.

Many, perhaps most people concerned directly with the upbringing of children, have never before seen so alarming and graphic a picture. We are told that "even to know and admit the truth about things is curative," and further on we are advised, "to lay all our cards on the table and tell them (the children) the truth and get their confidence." The problem is plainly stated but the solution is not as clear. If in helping individual children at moments of crises perfect frankness is demanded, why should not the same principle be applied to the parents of the children? We belong, one admits, to a misguided generation, but most of us acknowledge the folly of our ways and are trying to change them.

If my boy or girl were involved in some serious complication, I should feel that no one, even a justice of the court, had the ethical right to make a decision without consulting me. I should at least be allowed to give evidence. If the kindly, understanding treatment accorded the children were extended to the parents, would not results be surer? The parents need to be better

HAVE you read all of the League's publications? We can supply the following in such numbers as are desired:

BULLETIN No. 6.—The Need for Psychological Interpretation in the Placement of Dependent Children, by Jessie Taft, Ph.D.

Price, Fifteen Cents

BULLETIN No. 7.—What Dependent Children Need. Edited by C. V. Williams.

Price, Twenty-five Cents

BULLETIN No. 11.—The Problem of the Unmarried Mother and Her Child, by Ruth I. Workum.

Price, Fifteen Cents

understood, in fact, since long established prejudices and habits of thought are to be reckoned with.

The statement is made that "teachers don't want to know the truth." That may be the case in some instances, but we question so sweeping a generalization which our experience does not support.

In this book ministers, teachers, and parents are assailed so fiercely that they are at once put upon the defensive. Our plea is that Judge Lindsey will use his remarkably successful methods with us, for we do wish to do a better piece of work with our children and we are opposed to any plan by which our possible grandchildren may be disposed of without our having known of their existence.

Could that method be considered good case work?

E. B.

ENCLOSURES

(Sent to members of the League only)

1. What can be done in Minnesota for Child Welfare Among the Children of Veterans and Others. A leaflet prepared and issued by the American Legion in Minnesota for the guidance of its County Chairman of Child Welfare.
2. Some Laws, Which, if more generally known and enforced, would decrease Juvenile Delinquency in Buffalo. Quotations from the statutes dealing with pawnbrokers, selling tobacco to minors, billiard and pool rooms, child marriage and other matters affecting juvenile delinquency.
3. Information Exchange, Child Welfare League.

CHANGES FOR THE DIRECTORY

WESTCHESTER COUNTY CHILDREN'S ASSN.—Room 509, 8 Church Street, White Plains, N. Y.

CINCINNATI, Ohio—Juvenile League of Cincinnati, 312 West 9th Street, Mr. Galen F. Achauer, Director, instead of Juvenile Protective Association, 25 East 9th Street, Miss Lulu May Adler, Director.

KANSAS CHILDREN'S HOME AND SERVICE LEAGUE receives membership by transfer from the Kansas Children's Home Society.

INTER-CITY CONFERENCE ON ILLEGITIMACY BULLETIN

President: MR. JAMES E. EWERS, Cleveland, Ohio.
Vice-President: MRS. EDITH M. H. BAYLOR, Boston, Mass.
Secretary-Treasurer: MISS RUTH COLBY, St. Paul, Minn.

A STUDY OF UNMARRIED MOTHERS

Résumé of paper read by MISS CHARLOTTE LOWE, Research Bureau of the Minnesota State Board of Control, at the State Conference of Social Work in September of 1926.

The Research Bureau of the State Board of Control last year conducted a psychological study of a group of 344 unmarried mothers who were patients in the Maternity Hospitals in the Twin Cities. This psychological study was augmented by social facts taken from the case histories on file in the Children's Bureau.

Mental examinations brought out the following facts: Of the 344 unmarried mothers, 21.45 percent were above average; 11.92 percent were average and 66.57 were below average. A similar study made of 7,656 unselected school children showed quite different results. Here we have 37.8 percent above average; 24.03 percent average and 38.06 below average, an almost perfect balance.

The median age of the group was 20 years and the age having the greatest number of cases was 18; 17.7 percent were less than 18 and 55.2 percent were less than 21. Relating this to the intelligence we find the following:

From 15-19 years average I. Q.	92
From 20-24 " " "	90.5
From 25-29 " " "	85.2
From 30-34 " " "	74.0
From 35- " " "	63.6

Occupations were grouped in five classes, A to E, with Class A most highly skilled and Class E at the bottom of the scale. Of the 344 cases only 4.3 were in Class A group while 70.5 were in Class E with a median I. Q. of 81. The average length of time of holding their positions is 9.8 months which would indicate an unstable group.

The school record shows that 59.3 percent never reached high school which is 20 percent in excess of what is expected of an average group.

To what extent is their home life a contributing cause? The U. S. census of 1920 gives 50 percent of Minnesota's population as rural. We might then expect to find 50 percent of our unmarried mothers to be country girls. But actually we find 58.5 percent or $\frac{1}{6}$ more than might be expected. The next highest group 17.4 percent comes from the home of the unskilled laborer. Then we have 12.1 percent from the home of the semi-skilled laborer,

10.2 percent from the highly skilled home and 1.9 percent from the professional home.

The average size of the family in the unmarried mother group is 6.2 in comparison with 3.5 for the whole state of Minnesota. More than half of these girls, 55 percent, come from families having six or more children, 44.5 had seven or more and 32 percent had eight or more. Only 3.4 percent were only children.

The question has often been raised, how many girls become pregnant while still living at home and how many after leaving home? This study shows that 54.8 percent became pregnant before leaving home, 13 percent after leaving home in the country and going to small town and 32.2 percent after leaving home and going to the city. Of this last 32.2 percent by far the greatest number had been away from home more than two years.

As a result of the study we make these recommendations:

1. That every unmarried mother should be given a mental test as the first step in the effort to understand her as an individual.
2. That girls found to be feeble-minded should be prevented, if possible, either by segregation, close supervision or sterilization from having more children.
3. That more ways and means be provided for reaching these girls before they become delinquent.
4. That County Superintendents, social workers and churches of the small towns and country districts watch out for their girls as they leave school to see what they do and where they go.
5. That the churches, social workers and teachers should not overlook the girls who are living at home as they become delinquent even more frequently than the girls who have left their homes.

INTER-CITY CONFERENCE AMALGAMATION

(From the Executive Committee Meeting of the League)

The report of the Committee recommending amalgamation, with additional staff in the Child Welfare League office, the continuance of the local conference, an Annual Meeting at the time of the National conference and an Advisory Committee for the work, was adopted subject to the provision of adequate financial support being found. There was much discussion of the desirability of continuing to view the problem of illegitimacy as a separate problem because public opinion is now seeing it as a case work problem.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

(Inter-City Conference on Illegitimacy)

Individual dues, \$1.00; Group dues, \$5.00, payable to the Treasurer, Children's Bureau, Board of Control, Capitol, St. Paul, Minn.